

Please add the following paragraph after the paragraph ending on page 17, line 4:

--The invention being thus described, it will be obvious that the same may be varied in many ways. Such variations are not to be regarded as a departure from the spirit and scope of the invention, and all such modifications as would be obvious to one skilled in the art are intended to be included within the scope of the following claims.--

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Amended) A shredded tobacco supply apparatus of a cigarette manufacturing machine, said supply apparatus comprising a tobacco feeder, said tobacco feeder including

a reservoir stored with shredded tobacco,

an ascending conveyor capable of receiving the shredded tobacco from said reservoir and transferring the shredded tobacco upward,

a deposition chute capable of receiving the shredded tobacco from said ascending conveyor and depositing the received shredded tobacco, said deposition chute including an inlet adjoining an upper end of said ascending conveyor and a pendent passage

extending downwardly from the inlet straight to a lower end thereof,

a feed roller unit for delivering the shredded tobacco from the lower end of said deposition chute at a constant supply rate,

acceleration means for accelerating the shredded tobacco delivered from said feed roller unit without using pneumatic pressure, and

pneumatic transportation means for transporting the shredded tobacco accelerated by said acceleration means, along with an air current, toward a tobacco band of said cigarette manufacturing machine,

said pneumatic transportation means including a chimney for guiding the shredded tobacco and the air current toward the tobacco band, the chimney inclining at an angle to the traveling direction of the tobacco band.